

# Resource Conservation Initiative

**Background:**

**National Wildlife Refuge System**  
**mission:**

**administer network of lands and  
waters for conservation,  
management, and restoration of  
U.S. fish, wildlife, and plant  
resources for benefit of present and  
future generations of Americans**



# Resource Conservation Initiative

**Background:**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**  
**mission:**

**work with others to conserve,  
protect, and enhance fish and  
wildlife and their habitats for  
continuing benefit of American  
people**



# Resource Conservation Initiative

## Partners:

The Nature Conservancy  
US Air Force  
US Forest Service  
USDA NRCS  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Partnership for the Sounds  
Private Landowners  
State Agencies

National Park Service  
NC Dept of Transportation  
Coastal Refuges Society  
Coastal Land Trust  
US Navy  
Marine Fisheries Service  
NC NERRS  
Other Interested Individuals

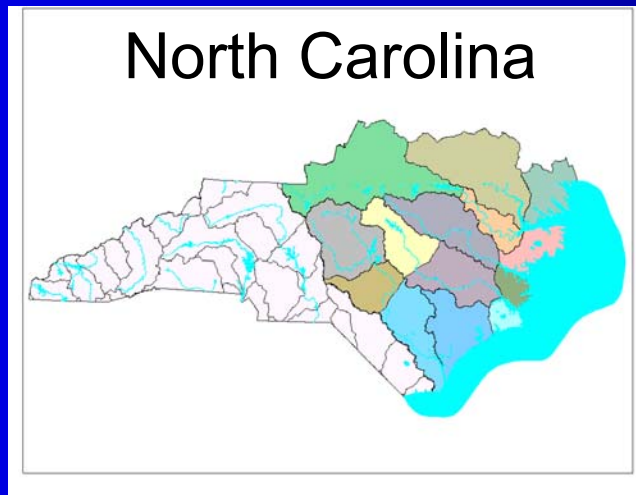
We actively invite the participation and involvement of any groups or individuals in the RCI and CCP processes. If you would like to have your group listed as a partner with US FWS, contact planner and web administrator, [DA Brown](#).



# Resource Conservation Initiative

## Geographic Region of Interest:

40,000 square mile area in  
southeastern Virginia and eastern  
North Carolina, extending from  
piedmont to the Atlantic Coast



# Resource Conservation Initiative

## Geographic Region of Interest:

Landscape includes coastal barrier islands, estuaries, tidal and non-tidal rivers, coastal plain and piedmont land forms



# Resource Conservation Initiative

Geographic Region of Interest:

Industrial and residential land uses  
include agriculture, timber  
production, mining, and tourism



# Resource Conservation Initiative

## RTNCF Fish and Wildlife Resources:

### Fisheries

blue crabs	southern flounder
striped bass	striped mullet
white perch	croaker
spot	



# Resource Conservation Initiative

## RTNCF Fish and Wildlife Resources:

Fifty-nine federally-listed endangered and threatened species

Half million overwintering ducks, swans and geese; almost 400 species of birds





# Resource Conservation Initiative

## RTNCF Fish and Wildlife Resources:

Highest black bear population along  
the mid-Atlantic coast

Reintroduced Red wolves



# Resource Conservation Initiative

## Threats to RTNCF Ecosystem Biodiversity:

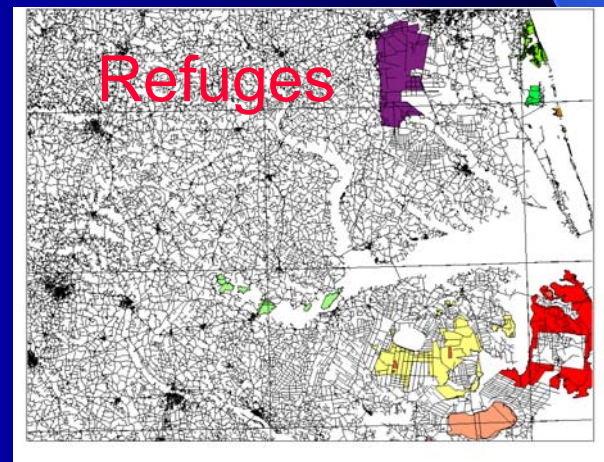
Habitat Loss  
Fragmentation  
Cowbird Nest Predation  
Construction  
Clearing for Agriculture  
Industrial Activity

# Resource Conservation Initiative

## Solutions:

### Immediate Approach (Early 1990's) –

- Delineate land protection needs
- Consider wildlife corridors, drainage patterns, ecosystem management factors
- Evaluate, plan, and approve process for lands identified



# Resource Conservation Initiative

**Solutions:**

**Results of Approach –**

**Expand Refuge boundaries by:**

**Partnerships**

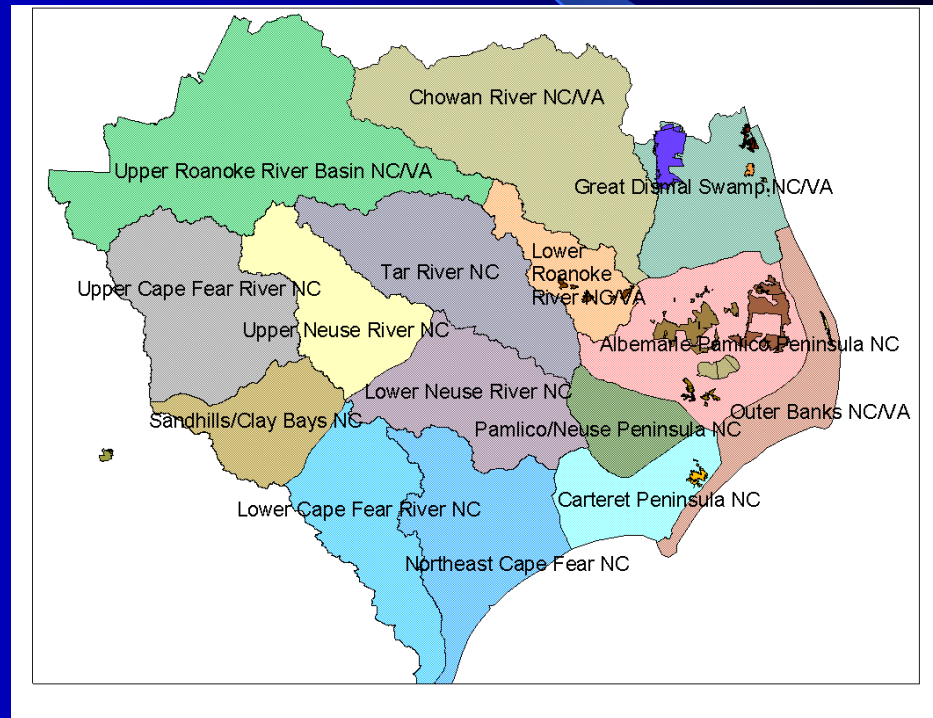
**Easements**

**Donations**

# Resource Conservation Initiative

Solutions (1996):

Conception of  
Resource  
Conservation  
Initiative (RCI)



# Resource Conservation Initiative

## RCI Team Goals:

Identify resources, threats and management opportunities

Establish priorities

Determine shared interests

Develop strategy for priority identified lands

Share all information with public

# Resource Conservation Initiative

## Comprehensive Conservation Plans:

CCPSs are congressionally mandated  
by the National Wildlife Refuge System  
Improvement Act of 1997

# Resource Conservation Initiative

## The CCPs will:

Ensure consistent management  
between federal, state and county  
plans

Define the direction of each refuge

Provide extensive public involvement

Provide long-term guidance and  
continuity in refuge management

Provide the basis for developing  
budget requests



# Resource Conservation Initiative

**National Environmental Policy Act  
(NEPA) of 1969:**

**USFWS Policy developed to require  
NEPA for RCI planning and preparation  
of CCPs for National Wildlife Refuges**

**USFWS Policy also developed to  
prepare consistency determinations  
concurrently with CCPs**

# Resource Conservation Initiative

Planning Team and Office is in place to develop CCPs for the refuges in eastern North Carolina and Virginia, including

Cedar Island NWR

Alligator River NWR

Pocosin Lakes NWR

Swanquarter NWR

Mattamuskeet NWR

Mackay Island NWR

Roanoke River NWR

Great Dismal NWR

Pea Island NWR

Back Bay NWR

Currituck NWR

# Resource Conservation Initiative

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